

NORTH CAROLINA DAY CARE COST STUDY



FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES FINAL REPORT APRIL, 1983

Conducted by: North Carolina Department of Administration
Conducted for: Day Care Study Committee, Legislative Research Commission,
N.C. General Assembly

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Copies of the Final Report are available by writing to:

Talitha Wright
Office of Child Day Care Licensing
1919 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

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I. INTRODUCTION

Preface

During July 1982 to April 1983 the North Carolina Department of Administration conducted a study of the cost of child day care services for the Legislative Study Commission of the General Assembly. The purpose of the study was to obtain current and objective information on day care services and their costs for all types and sizes of day care providers in the state.

The full study involved data from 301 day care centers and 150 family day care homes. Due to the many differences between day care centers and day care homes, it was necessary to study centers and homes separately using a different research design. This report is based on the family day care home portion of the study only. A separate final report is available for the day care center study.

Family day care operators in the study were interviewed by telephone to collect information on the number and ages of children in their care, typical weekly fees charged, programmatic characteristics, and characteristics of the providers themselves such as education, experience, and training in day care. Since most day care home providers do not maintain complete operational budgets detailing the costs of providing day care and which are separate from the costs of maintaining their personal residence, it was not possible to include operational cost questions on the survey.

All telephone interviews were conducted during January 1983. While many of the survey questions focused on family day care operations during the week prior to the interview, many others were directed toward standard operational policies such as giving fee discounts, or providing care at night. A copy of the survey instrument used with the interviews is included in the Appendix. In addition, a section

on study methodology is also included in the Appendix. This section discusses procedures used in sample selection, survey development, data collection and analysis, as well as the probable accuracy of study statistics in estimating the characteristics of all day care homes in the state.

The results of the study are presented in a series of sections in the final report, each of which discusses survey findings for particular categories of day care homes. The first section reviews the survey results for all homes statewide. The other three sections discuss similarities and differences between subsidized and non-subsidized homes and metropolitan and non-metropolitan homes and among homes in the western, piedmont, and eastern regions of the state. For a more complete discussion of how the final report is organized, please refer to the section entitled How to Use This Report and the Table of Contents.

The day care cost study yielded a substantial amount of information regarding day care services and their cost in North Carolina. Because of the volume of data available, it was difficult to present a brief summary of the study findings that accurately reflected the many similarities and differences among the various possible categories of day care providers. The particular statistics that one uses depend on the particular questions that one is asking. While an attempt was made to present some of the notable findings in an Executive Summary, the reader is urged to use the narrative overviews and the data summary tables for a more complete discussion of similarities and differences among different categories of family day care homes.

How To Use This Report

The final report of the family day care home study is organized into four major parts: I) Introduction; II) Overview of Study Results; III) Data Summary Tables; and IV) the Appendix.

The Introduction is intended to give the reader both a basic understanding of the purpose of the cost study as well as a snapshot summary of study findings for family day care homes. The Preface provides a brief review of study purposes and methods. The Executive Summary discusses several notable findings from the study comparing different categories of homes. Finally, the section on statewide highlights summarizes study results which describe the average family day care home in North Carolina.

Part II of the report contains narrative overviews summarizing study results for different categories of homes. The first section presents statewide results in greater detail than they were presented in the section on Statewide Highlights. However, this first section does continue to describe characteristics of the "average" family day care home in the state based on survey data. The remaining overviews discuss similarities and differences between subsidized and non-subsidized homes, metropolitan and non-metropolitan homes, and among homes in the western, piedmont, and eastern regions of the state. Each of the summaries provides the same basic type of information about family day care homes. However, the statistics are different in each section because a different set of center characteristics has been used to classify the centers in each section.

If a reader were interested in comparing study results for non-subsidized and subsidized homes, then the overview discussing similarities and differences between these two types of homes should be

used. On the other hand, if a reader were interested in differences among family day care homes in metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties, then the overview on metropolitan/non-metropolitan homes should be read.

Part III of the report contains a series of Tables summarizing the results of the survey in areas such as enrollment characteristics, average weekly fees, group size and staff-child ratio, provider characteristics, and others. Each table includes the statewide averages for each variable as well as side by side comparative data for each of the different categories of family day care homes.

The tables allow a reader to make comparisons on any variable across a number of different classifications of family day care homes. To illustrate, using Table C, it is possible to compare the statewide average for typical weekly fees for four year olds (\$27.09) with the fee in subsidized homes (\$31.50) and in non-subsidized homes (\$26.91). For any statistic included in the final report, the tables allow quick comparisons across all classifications of day care homes. Bold lines separate the different classification schemes to make comparisons within the schemes easier.

The order in which information is presented in the narrative overviews relates to the sequence of information in the data tables and vice versa. To elaborate, each of the overviews begins with a discussion of enrollment characteristics (Table A) and concludes with a discussion of average after-expenses weekly income (Table N) for the family day care homes being summarized and compared.

Similarly, the first column of each data table presents statewide results corresponding to the first narrative overview in the report. The second set of columns in each table contain comparative data on

subsidized and non-subsidized day care homes corresponding to the second narrative overview presented. Hopefully, this systematic relationship between the overviews and the tables will make it easier for the reader to refer to the tables more often to examine specific survey results in greater detail.

The Appendix contains a glossary with definitions that will help to clarify the meaning of terms used in the report. A summary of the methodology utilized in the study follows the glossary. A review of these two sections prior to reading the report will help to make the survey findings more understandable and meaningful.

Also included in the Appendix is a map of the state illustrating which counties are included in each of the three regions of the state as well as which ones are considered metropolitan and non-metropolitan. The Appendix also contains summaries of the requirements for registration of day care plans (homes) and the standards for certification of subsidized homes. These supplements are included to give the reader a better understanding of the methods and terminology used in the study as well as differences in the requirements for operating non-subsidized and subsidized family day care homes.

Executive Summary

According to statewide results of the cost survey, the typical North Carolina family day care home serves 5 children and charges an average fee of about \$29.00 per week for full-time care. Weekly fees are somewhat less for children as they become older, but the differences in the average fees by age level are quite small. Of all the children cared for in family day care homes, only 8 percent are children of the providers themselves or relatives for whom no fee is charged.

No family day care home included in the survey reported any additional fees for meals, disposable diapers, field trips, or other services. A small percentage of homes did report charging an additional fee for transportation services.

About one-half of family day care providers reported that they offer fee discounts for more than one child from the same family and about one-third offer discounts for other family circumstances such as low income. While nearly two-thirds of providers stated that they never charge a fee when children are absent, about a third either always or sometimes charge a fee.

Statewide, 95 percent of homes indicated that they provide day care only five days per week. Only 7 percent of homes in the survey reported that they regularly offer care at night.

Children attending day care homes full-time accounted for an average of 68 percent of enrollment compared with 15 percent enrollment for pre-school part-time children and 17 percent for school-age part-time children.

According to the survey, the typical family day care provider is 44 years old, is a high school graduate and has nearly 11 years experience in child care. Statewide, about 22 percent of day care

home providers have had some form of pre-service training.

The average home provider works about 47 hours per week and earns a net weekly income of approximately \$64.00 after expenses for day care related food and materials are deducted. Expressed as average hourly net income, statewide, family day care providers earn an appalling low \$1.43 per hour.

Family day care home providers in metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties did not differ greatly on most characteristics. The average weekly fee for all ages was somewhat higher in metropolitan counties at \$30.45 compared with \$26.07 in non-metropolitan counties. In addition, more metropolitan homes indicated that they always charge a fee for absences and that they plan to raise their fees within six months.

However, few major differences between metropolitan and non-metropolitan homes were found in average group sizes of children, ratio of child hours in day care to provider hours worked, and the number of hours that providers worked per week. Also, few differences were found in the number of years of experience, training, and educational attainment. Metropolitan providers did report higher average net earnings than non-metropolitan providers.

In examining regional differences, the piedmont region had the highest average weekly fee (\$30.78). The average weekly fee in the west was \$26.15 and in the east, it was \$26.40. The piedmont also had the lowest percentage of homes offering a discount for a second child from the same family.

A higher percentage of homes in the piedmont region reported that they always charge the regular fee when children are absent and that they plan to raise their fees within the next six months. By using all survey results on fees and fee policies, the piedmont region

had the highest fees of all three regions while the eastern and western regions were generally comparable.

Regional differences were not major on most program and provider characteristics. Average group sizes and staff-child ratios were similar across the three regions. After-expenses weekly income was higher in the piedmont at \$73.81 than in the east at \$50.11 and in the west at \$49.71.

A number of differences were found when comparing subsidized and non-subsidized homes. Fees were slightly higher in subsidized homes and tended to generally be the same for all ages while in non-subsidized homes, average weekly fees tended to decrease more as children got older. A substantially lower percentage of subsidized homes offered fee discounts for a second child from the same family and a higher percentage reported that they always charge the regular fee when children are absent.

Subsidized homes typically charge by the month while non-subsidized homes usually charge by the week. This is primarily due to the monthly payment policy of the local departments of social services which reimburse subsidized family day care providers monthly. Sixty-three percent of subsidized homes in the survey were participants in the Child Care Food Program which provided them with an average monthly food subsidy of \$131.00. Only one of 115 non-subsidized homes reported participation in the program.

While the average group sizes in the subsidized homes were smaller than in the non-subsidized homes, the ratio of child hours in care to provider hours worked was the same for both categories of homes. This finding was most probably due to the fact that the subsidized homes had a higher percentage of full-time children enrolled than the non-subsidized homes.

A notable difference was found between subsidized and non-subsidized homes in the percentage of providers who received day care training last year. Sixty-six percent of subsidized providers reported that they had training compared with only 7 percent of non-subsidized providers.

After-expenses weekly income averaged \$86.94 in subsidized homes and \$63.21 in non-subsidized homes. The difference in net weekly earnings becomes more striking when comparing the percentages of homes reporting in various income categories. While 10 percent of subsidized providers reported weekly earnings in the \$0 - \$25 range, 25 percent of non-subsidized providers stated that they were in this category. This is in contrast to 23 percent of subsidized homes reporting a weekly income over \$125 in comparison to 7 percent of non-subsidized homes. Despite the somewhat higher earnings for providers in the subsidized homes, their average hourly net income was still only \$2.02. The average hourly net income for non-subsidized providers was \$1.41.

Overall, the family day care cost survey pointed out that there are fewer differences among various categories of day care homes than among different categories of day care centers. In general, family day care homes in all comparison categories possess more similarities than differences. The most striking finding of the survey was the very low average income that home day care providers receive.

Family Day Care Homes

Statewide Highlights

- The average number of children cared for in family day care homes was 5.3.
- Of the children cared for in family day care homes, 8% were children of the providers or relatives for whom no fee was charged.
- 92% of children in day care homes were children for whom the provider received a regular fee.
- Of the fee-paying children cared for, 68% were full-time, 15% were pre-school part-time, and 17% were school-age part-time.
- The majority of family day care providers (56%) charge by the week for care, while 22% charge by the day, another 5% charge by the month, and still another 17% charge by the hour or some combination of methods.
- The average weekly fee for all ages was \$28.90 for full-time care and \$10.79 for after-school care.
- 28% of homes stated that they had an hourly fee for care in addition to their regular fee. The average hourly fee for these homes was \$1.53.
- 51% of day care homes indicated that they offer fee discounts for more than one child in the same family.
- 31% of homes reported that they gave discounts for other family circumstances (such as low income).
- 23% of providers responded that they always charge a fee when children are absent compared with 64% who noted that they never charge when children are absent.
- 15% of homes stated that they expected to raise their fees within six months.
- A very large percentage (87%) of homes indicated that they have no trouble at all in collecting fees.

- Most homes provide snacks to children in care (94%) and 87% provide lunches as part of the regular care fee.
- 92% of providers reported caring for the children by themselves, while 8% indicated that they had one or more regular assistants.
- Most day care homes (95%) operate only five days per week with only 5% providing care on weekends.
- A small percentage of homes (7%) indicated that they also regularly provide care at night.
- The average number of hours worked by family day care home providers each week was 47.3.
- For every hour that a provider worked, an average of 3.2 child hours of day care were provided.
- The average day care provider had 10.7 years of experience in child care and 7.1 years experience providing care in her own home.
- The average number of years of schooling completed for family day care home providers was 11.2 years.
- 22% of providers stated that they had completed some form of pre-service training in day care.
- The average age of family day care providers was 44.4 years.
- 96% of homes indicated that they operated independently and 4% reported an affiliation with a sponsoring organization.
- 70% of family day care homes reported that they maintained separate business records.
- 62% of homes responded that they claim income tax deductions for their business.
- The average weekly income for day care home providers after expenses for food and day care materials was \$63.79.
- The average hourly pay for providers after expenses for food and day care materials was approximately \$1.43.

II. OVERVIEW OF STUDY RESULTS

Statewide

The average number of children cared for in family day care homes was 5.3. Of this number, 4.7 children or 92 percent were children for whom providers received a regular fee. In contrast, 8 percent of the children in the homes were the children of providers or their relatives for whom no fee was received. Full-time children accounted for 68 percent of enrollment, while another 15 percent were pre-school part-time children and 17 percent were school age part-time children.

Most family day care homes in the state (56%) charge by the week for day care. Another 22 percent charge by the day and another 5 percent charge by the month. The remaining 17 percent charge by the hour or some combination of time periods.

The average weekly fee for all ages in full-time care was \$28.90. Fees were somewhat less for children as they become older, but the fee differences were quite small. For children less than one year old, the average weekly fee was \$29.27; for one-year-olds, \$29.88; two-year-olds, \$28.39; three-year-olds, \$28.22; four-year-olds, \$27.09; and five-year-olds, \$27.97. The average weekly fee for after-school care was \$10.79.

A portion of the homes surveyed (28%) reported that they also had an hourly fee for part-time care. The average hourly fee for pre-school children was approximately \$1.53 and the average hourly fee for school-aged children was \$1.51.

No homes reported any additional fees for meals, disposable diapers, field trips, or other services. However, a small percentage of homes reported charging an additional average weekly fee

of \$7.46 for transportation services.

A large percentage of family day care homes (51%) responded that they offer fee discounts for more than one child from the same family. Nearly 31 percent of homes also offer fee discounts for other family circumstances (such as low income) as well.

While 23 percent of homes indicated that they always charge a fee when children are absent, 64 percent stated that they never charge for absences. Another 13 percent of homes reported that they sometimes charge for absences depending on circumstances.

No family day care homes indicated that they had much trouble in collecting fees while 4 percent stated that they had some trouble; another 9 percent reported very little trouble and a sizable 87 percent responded that they had absolutely no trouble at all. About 15 percent of home providers stated that they expect to raise their fees within six months.

Most family day care homes provide enrolled children with snacks and lunches at no extra charge to the parents. Only 6 percent of homes do not provide snacks and 13 percent do not provide lunches as part of their regular caregiving program.

In 8 percent of the homes, a regular assistant was employed to assist with caring for the children. The average number of hours per week that these assistants worked was 30 hours.

For the homes surveyed, 95 percent operated only five days per week. One home (1%) provided care seven days per week; three homes (3%) provided it six days per week; and two homes (2%) provided it less than five days per week. A total of 5 percent of the homes reported that they provided some care on week ends and 7 percent indicated that they provided care at night.

When family day care providers were asked to report the total number of different fee-paying children that they cared for in the last twelve months, as an indication of turnover in child enrollment, the average number of children was 6.1. A majority of providers (58%) cared for between one and five children while 35 percent cared for between six and ten children; and 8 percent had eleven or more different children over the past twelve months.

The average group size for all ages was 5.3 children, including the children of providers or relatives for whom no fee was charged. When examining average group sizes for particular ages of children, these progressively increased from a low of 5.4 for one-year-olds to a high of 6.6 for six-year-olds. Average group sizes for each age were computed as the average size of all family day care home groups that contained one or more children of that age. The average group sizes for other ages appear in Table J.

As a measure of staff-child contact, the average number of child hours in day care for each hour the provider worked was 3.2. The average number of hours that each provider reported working per week was 47.3.

Experience in caring for other people's children varied considerably for providers included in the survey. The largest category of providers (36%) were those with 1 - 5 years experience and the second largest category (25%) were those with 6 - 10 years experience. Eleven percent of providers stated that they had more than twenty years experience in child care. The average number of years experience in child care was 10.7. The average number of years experience providing child care in their own homes was 7.1.

The majority of family day care home providers (61%) reported that they had completed high school. About a third of providers

had completed more than eight years of school, but did not graduate from high school. About 6 percent of providers reported less than an eighth grade education. A small percentage of providers (6%) stated that they were college graduates. The average number of years of school completed was 11.2 years. Completion of some form of pre-service training in day care was also reported by 22 percent of providers.

Providers in 70 percent of family day care homes indicated that they do maintain separate financial records for their day care business. The majority of providers (62%) also responded that they claim tax deductions for their family day care home operation. Approximately 76 percent of providers give, or are willing to give parents some form of payment receipt for day care fees. This suggests that at least 24 percent of home day care operators are not currently providing parents with any form of receipt for day care fees.

Statewide, a small percentage of day care homes (4%) noted that they were affiliated with a sponsoring organization which helped to place children in their home.

After expenses for food and day care materials have been deducted, day care providers reported that the average weekly income for their work was \$63.79. A substantial 25 percent of family day care providers stated that their after-expenses weekly income was only in the \$0 - \$25 range. Another 26 percent responded that their net weekly income was only in the \$26 - \$50 range. Overall, the average net hourly pay for family day care providers (after expenses for food and day care materials have been deducted) was only about \$1.40 per hour.

Of the 151 family day care homes that were included in the survey, 35 or 23 percent were participants in the Department of Human Resources (DHR) Purchase of Care Program. Statewide, there are only 110 homes that have met program standards and are participating in the program. This represents only about 2 percent of the 5,450 registered family day care homes in the state. The survey included a greater number of homes in the purchase of care program than would be selected at random so that comparisons could be made between family day care homes in the DHR program with homes not participating in the program. This section is the only one in the survey that utilizes data from all 35 subsidized homes. The other comparisons and statewide results are adjusted to more accurately reflect the representation of subsidized homes in the state.

The DHR program purchases full and part-time day care from family day care home providers through local Departments of Social Services for parents that meet established income eligibility requirements. These family day care programs are often referred to as subsidized because a substantial portion of their family day care income is due to their participation in the program. However, these programs do not receive any other cash subsidy from DHR besides the approved monthly care rate established for family day care homes by the state.

A number of the home providers participating in the DHR program also participate in the Child Care Food Program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture. This program does provide additional cash subsidies for food costs in approved family day care programs.

The following results are presented as comparisons between the subsidized (DHR) and non-subsidized programs included in the survey sample.

The subsidized family day care homes had a lower number of fee-paying children enrolled (3.9) compared with 4.8 for non-subsidized programs. The subsidized programs also had a lower total number of children in care (4.4) including non fee-paying children than did the non-subsidized homes which cared for an average of 5.3 children.

Subsidized programs had a higher percentage of full-time children (86%) than did non-subsidized programs that had 67 percent full-time children. Both part-time pre-school, as well as part-time school age, enrollment percentages were higher in non-subsidized programs than in subsidized programs. Part-time pre-school enrollment was 16 percent in non-subsidized programs and 6 percent in subsidized day care homes. Part-time school-age enrollment was 17 percent in non-subsidized homes compared with 9 percent in subsidized programs.

Subsidized and non-subsidized homes differed considerably in whether they charge by the month, week, or day. Approximately 75 percent of subsidized programs charge by the month for day care versus only 3 percent of non-subsidized homes. This difference is due primarily to the fact that the subsidized programs are paid on a monthly basis by their local Department of Social Services. Fifty-seven percent of non-subsidized homes charge by the week compared with only 3 percent of the subsidized homes. Also, 23 percent of non-subsidized programs reported that they charge by the day in contrast to only 3 percent for subsidized homes.

Average weekly charges for the subsidized homes were higher at every age level than for the non-subsidized homes. The average weekly fee for all ages was \$31.43 for subsidized programs and \$28.81 for

non-subsidized programs. Weekly rates tended to stay essentially the same at all age levels for the subsidized programs while in the non-subsidized programs weekly fees tended to decrease as children became older. The differences in the average weekly fee between the two types of programs ranged from a low of \$1.93 for children less than one year old to a high of \$5.02 for five-year-olds. These differences increased with the ages of the children. The average weekly after-school care charge in subsidized homes was \$16.09, or \$5.30 higher than the \$10.79 average for non-subsidized programs.

Fifty-two percent of non-subsidized programs reported giving fee discounts for more than one child enrolled from the same family while only 9 percent of subsidized programs stated that they had such a policy. In addition, 32 percent of non-subsidized homes acknowledged that they also gave fee discounts for other family circumstances and, again, only 9 percent of subsidized homes reported doing so.

A much higher percentage of subsidized homes (66%) responded that they always charge their regular fee if children are absent in comparison to non-subsidized homes (22%). In contrast, only 23 percent of subsidized programs stated that they never charge a fee for absences while 65 percent of non-subsidized homes answered that they never charge for absences.

All thirty-five (100%) of subsidized homes reported that they had absolutely no trouble at all in collecting their fees. Eighty-seven percent of non-subsidized programs also reported that they had no trouble in collecting fees while 13 percent indicated that they had some trouble. Sixteen percent of non-subsidized programs reported that they expected to raise their fees within six months,

while only 6 percent of subsidized homes anticipated any fee increases.

Sixty-three percent of subsidized family day care homes reported that they received supplementary support through the Child Care Food Program, while only one of 115 non-subsidized homes indicated that they participated in the program. The average monthly income reported due to the Child Care Food Program was \$130.52.

As previously noted, 35 family day care programs (23% of the total number sampled) were participants in the Department of Human Resources Purchase of Care Program. The average monthly income from this program was \$445.33 per month. On average, subsidized children comprised 89 percent of the total enrollment in the subsidized homes.

Comparable percentages of subsidized and non-subsidized homes indicated that they provide snacks and lunches to the children as a part of the regular care fee. Ninety-four percent of subsidized homes and non-subsidized homes reported providing snacks. Similarly, 91 percent of subsidized homes stated that they include lunches, in comparison with 87 percent of non-subsidized homes.

Both categories of family day care programs provided care primarily during the day and then only five days per week. Only 7 percent of non-subsidized homes responded that they offer care at night and only 3 percent of subsidized homes reported offering night care. An equally small 5 percent of non-subsidized programs indicated that week end care was available and no subsidized home programs reported offering any week end care.

Average group sizes of children were smaller at every age level in the subsidized homes than in the non-subsidized programs. The smallest difference in group sizes was found for one-year-olds with

group sizes of 4.7 and 5.4 for subsidized and non-subsidized homes respectively. The largest difference was found for five-year-olds with an average group size of 4.6 in subsidized homes and 6.5 in non-subsidized programs.

The average number of day care hours that children received for each hour that a provider worked was 3.2 for both subsidized and non-subsidized programs. The average number of hours worked per week was 45.3 in subsidized homes and 47.4 in non-subsidized homes.

The average number of years experience in child care was very similar for both categories of family home providers. Providers in subsidized homes had an average of 10.5 years experience and those in non-subsidized programs had an average of 10.7 years. The average number of years of school completed was also very close with subsidized home operators having 10.9 years and non-subsidized providers having 11.2 years education.

In addition, the percentage of providers reporting some form of pre-service training in day care was similar for subsidized (23%) and non-subsidized (21%) homes. A major difference was found, however, in the percentage of providers that participated in day care training during 1982. Sixty-six percent of providers in subsidized homes stated that they had received training during 1982 compared with only 7 percent of providers in non-subsidized programs.

Sponsorship of homes by various community organizations was more prevalent for subsidized programs (38%) than for non-subsidized programs (5%). A slightly greater percentage of subsidized homes (77%) stated that they maintain separate financial records for their

day care business than did non-subsidized homes (69%). More non-subsidized homes (78%) stated that they made payment receipts available to parents than did the subsidized homes (49%). However, the finding that a smaller percentage of subsidized programs provide parents with receipts may be due to the fact that parents do not usually pay for the care. Instead, fees are paid directly to the provider by the local Department of Social Services.

Finally, differences were found between subsidized and non-subsidized programs in the amount of after-expenses weekly income reported by the providers. The expenses included only those for food and day care materials but did not include any expenses for occupancy, utilities, or other possible operating costs. Also, it should be noted that the weekly income figures are estimates given by the providers themselves.

After-expenses income averaged \$86.94 in subsidized homes compared with \$63.21 in non-subsidized homes. Ten percent of subsidized homes indicated that their net weekly income was only in the \$0 - \$25 range, while 25 percent of non-subsidized homes reported weekly income in that range. This can be contrasted with 23 percent of subsidized homes claiming over \$125 per week in comparison to only 7 percent of non-subsidized programs in that category.

Based on the average number of hours worked per week and net weekly income, average hourly earnings were \$2.02 for subsidized home providers and \$1.41 for non-subsidized providers.

Metroplitan/Non-Metroplitan

The following discussion examines similarities and differences in the family day care home study data between homes in metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties in the state. A map in the appendix indicates which counties are designated metropolitan or non-metropolitan.

Metropolitan counties had slightly larger percentages of full and part-time pre-school children enrolled than did the non-metropolitan counties. By contrast, non-metropolitan counties had more after-school children (25% of enrollment) compared with 13 percent in metropolitan day care homes. There were no substantial differences in the average number of children cared for or in the percentages of total children cared for who were fee-paying.

Family day care homes in both categories typically charged by the week for care although the percentage was slightly higher in metropolitan areas. Fifty-nine percent of metropolitan homes have weekly fees compared with 50 percent of non-metropolitan homes. Also, a slightly larger percentage of non-metropolitan homes (29%) charge by the day compared with 18 percent of metropolitan homes.

Average weekly fees for care were higher in metropolitan homes for all age categories. See Table C for specific comparisons by age levels. The average for all ages in metropolitan homes was \$30.45 per week compared with \$26.07 in non-metropolitan homes. However, the average weekly fee for after-school care was slightly higher in non-metropolitan homes at \$10.94 per week than in metropolitan homes at \$10.64 per week.

Thirty percent of metropolitan day care homes indicated that they also had an hourly fee compared with 24 percent of non-metropolitan programs. The average hourly rate for metropolitan homes

was \$1.68 and for non-metropolitan homes, it was a much lower \$1.16.

A somewhat greater percentage of metropolitan homes (28%) than non-metropolitan homes (14%) stated that they always charge a fee when children are absent. Also, slightly more metropolitan day care home providers (17%) than non-metropolitan providers (12%) reported that they plan to raise their fees within six months.

The average monthly income from the DHR program was \$501.00 for metropolitan day care homes and \$381.24 for non-metropolitan homes participating in the program. Both metropolitan and non-metropolitan subsidized programs had 88 percent of total enrollment that were subsidized children.

A slightly greater percentage of non-metropolitan homes (12%) than metropolitan homes (4%) reported that they regularly offer care at night. There was also a small difference in provision of weekend care reported between the two categories of day care homes with 4 percent of metropolitan and 7 percent of non-metropolitan homes offering weekend care.

Non-metropolitan family day care programs had an average of 6.5 fee-paying children enrolled during the past year. This was slightly higher than the average of 5.8 in the metropolitan homes. However, 46 percent of non-metropolitan homes responded that they had between six and ten children enrolled over the past year compared with only 28 percent of metropolitan homes. Most metropolitan programs (64%) had a total of between one and five children enrolled over the past twelve months.

Few major differences between metropolitan and non-metropolitan homes were found in average group sizes of children, ratio of child hours in day care to staff hours worked, and the number of hours

that providers worked per week. For example, metropolitan homes had an average of 3.2 child hours in day care for each provider hour worked compared with 3.1 for non-metropolitan homes. Providers in metropolitan homes worked an average of 48.0 hours per week and providers in non-metropolitan homes worked an average of 45.9 hours.

Similarities were also found in the number of years experience in day care and the level of educational attainment. Metropolitan home providers had 10.5 years experience and non-metropolitan providers had 11.0 years experience. There were slight differences in the percentages of providers with pre-service training (24% metropolitan and 19% non-metropolitan). Comparable percentages of home providers in both categories stated that they had received day care training in 1982. Seven percent of metropolitan homes indicated that they were affiliated with a sponsoring organization while no non-metropolitan homes reported any sponsorship.

Very few additional differences were observed between metropolitan and non-metropolitan day care homes with the exception of the net weekly income earned by providers. Metropolitan home providers had an average weekly income, after expenses for food and day care materials, of \$68.76. Non-metropolitan providers reported an average weekly income of \$54.50.

Region of State

The average number of children cared for was somewhat smaller in the east (4.7) in comparison with 5.6 children in the west and 5.4 children in the piedmont. Day care homes in the east also had the highest percentage of fee-paying children at 97 percent. Western homes had approximately 92 percent fee-paying children and homes in the piedmont had 90 percent. Both western and eastern homes had higher percentages of after-school children (26% and 21% respectively) compared with the piedmont (13%). The percentage of pre-school part-time children was the highest in the piedmont region at 18 percent.

The greatest percentage of homes in each region charged by the week. These figures were 47 percent in the west, 63 percent in the piedmont, and 50 percent in the east.

Weekly fees for care also varied by region of the state. Average weekly fees for all ages were \$26.15 in the west, \$30.78 in the piedmont, and \$26.40 in the east. Fees were the highest in the piedmont for all age levels. For a comparison of fees in all regions at all age levels, see Table C.

A comparable percentage of homes in each region reported also having hourly fees. Again, average fees in the piedmont were the highest at \$1.76 for all ages compared with \$1.50 in the west and \$1.09 in the east.

The highest percentage of homes that offer fee discounts for a second child in the same family was in the east at 67 percent. Forty percent of piedmont homes and 63 percent of western homes reported giving such discounts.

More homes in the piedmont region (33%) indicated that they always charge a regular fee when children are absent in contrast

to 11 percent in the west and 7 percent in the east. The largest percentage of home providers who stated that they never charge a fee when children are absent was in the east at 87 percent.

Nineteen percent of homes in the piedmont reported that they expected to raise their rates within the next six months. Only 5 percent of western homes and 10 percent of eastern homes responded that they were considering increasing their fees.

The average monthly income that providers received from the DHR program was lower in the west than in the other two regions. It was \$386.67 in the west, \$449.83 in the piedmont, and \$437.53 in the east. However, subsidized home providers in the west also had the lowest percentage of subsidized children (83%) compared with 86 percent in the east and 91 percent in the piedmont. The lower enrollment of subsidized children could be a partial explanation for the lower monthly income received by the subsidized providers in the west.

About 11 percent of home providers in the piedmont reported that they had regular assistants who helped to care for the children. This figure is somewhat lower in the other two regions with 5 percent of providers in the west and 3 percent in the east indicating that they had regular assistants. While only a very small number of homes reported having any assistants, there were also differences by region in the number of hours assistants worked per week. Assistants in the west and east worked an average of 57 and 49 hours per week respectively, while assistants in the piedmont worked an average of 21 hours per week. Again, it should be emphasized that the small number of homes with assistants in each region requires that these figures be interpreted with caution.

A slightly greater percentage of homes in the east stated that

they provided care at night (10%) than in the west (5%) or in the piedmont (6%). In addition, 10 percent of providers in the east indicated that they also cared for children on weekends. Only 5 percent of providers in the west and 3 percent of providers in the piedmont reported that they were offering weekend care.

Over the past year, western providers cared for an average of 6.2 different children in comparison with similar averages of 5.9 for the piedmont and 6.0 for the east. Approximately, 64 percent of piedmont home providers stated that they had cared for between 1 - 5 children during the past year while 47 percent of western providers and 54 percent of eastern providers reported caring for between 1 - 5 children. Forty-seven percent of homes in the west reported having cared for between 6 - 10 different children.

Average group sizes for different ages of children were fairly similar across all regions although those in the east were somewhat smaller. Small numbers of homes with only a few children of certain ages make group size figures difficult to interpret when broken down by each of the three regions. Both the ratio of child hours in day care to staff hours worked as well as the average number of staff hours worked were also quite similar for all three regions.

Family day care providers in the east had slightly less experience in child care than providers in the other regions. Providers in the east reported an average of 9.8 years experience while providers in the west had 11.5 years and those in the piedmont reported an average of 11.0 years. Educational attainment levels were virtually the same for all three regions. A higher percentage of providers in the west (32%) reported that they had received pre-service training in day care compared with those in the piedmont (24%)

or in the east (13%).

Eight percent of homes in the piedmont responded that they were affiliated with a sponsoring organization while no homes in the east and no homes in the west indicated any sponsorship. Other characteristics such as the percentage of homes maintaining separate business records and those claiming business deductions on taxes were similar for the three regions.

After-expenses weekly income did differ somewhat across the three regions. Providers in the piedmont reported a higher average net weekly income (\$73.81) than did providers in the east (\$50.11) and those in the west (\$49.71).

III. DATA SUMMARY TABLES

Enrollment Characteristics

Table A

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region : West	Region : Piedmont	Region : East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
Average # of children cared for (fee and non-fee paying)	5.3	4.4	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.4	4.7
Average # of all fee-paying children	4.7	3.9	4.8	4.6	5.1	5.2	4.8	4.4
% Fee-paying children	91.8	91.4	91.7	90.8	93.5	92.2	89.8	96.7
% Non-fee paying children (own and relatives children)	8.2	8.6	8.3	9.2	6.5	7.8	10.2	3.3
Average # of full-time fee-paying children	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.3	2.9
Average # of part-time fee-paying children	3.2	1.8	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.2
% Fee-paying children (full-time)	67.9	85.6	67.1	71.0	62.4	62.7	59.4	68.4
% Fee-paying children (part-time)	15.2	5.8	16.6	16.5	12.8	11.1	18.1	10.8
% Fee-paying children (after-school)	16.9	8.7	17.3	12.5	24.8	26.2	12.6	20.9

How Family Day Care Homes
Regularly Charge for Day Care

Table B

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
% Hourly	4.2	0.0	4.4	4.0	4.8	10.5	1.5	6.7
% Daily	22.0	3.1	22.6	18.4	28.6	31.6	19.4	20.0
% Weekly	55.9	3.1	57.4	59.2	50.0	47.4	62.7	50.0
% Monthly	5.1	75.0	2.6	5.3	4.8	0.0	6.0	6.7
% Both hourly and weekly	1.7	0.0	1.7	1.3	2.4	5.3	0.0	3.3
% Both hourly and daily	1.7	0.0	1.7	1.3	2.4	0.0	0.0	6.7
% Both weekly and monthly	1.7	12.5	1.7	2.6	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0
% Both hourly and monthly	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Both weekly and daily	7.6	3.1	7.8	7.9	7.1	5.3	7.5	6.7

Average Weekly Fees for
Full-Time Care By Age of Child

Table C

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
Average for all ages	28.90	31.43	28.81	30.45	26.07	26.15	30.78	26.40
Less than one year	29.27	31.20	29.27	30.11	27.56	27.89	30.94	25.18
One year old	29.88	32.88	29.81	31.02	27.68	27.22	31.39	27.08
Two years old	28.39	31.73	28.39	29.46	26.05	28.00	29.44	26.07
Three years old	28.22	31.53	28.10	29.31	26.05	26.00	29.38	26.57
Four years old	27.09	31.50	26.91	28.71	24.38	24.55	29.31	23.77
Five years old	27.97	32.75	27.73	28.48	26.25	28.75	28.35	25.40
After-school (Part-time)	10.79	16.09	10.79	10.64	10.94	9.67	11.40	10.63

Average Hourly Fee for Day Care
(for homes that have an hourly fee)

Table D

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
% Homes that have hourly fees	28.0	2.86	28.70	30.3	23.8	26.3	26.9	30.0
Average for all ages	1.53	N/A	1.53	1.68	1.16	1.50	1.76	1.09
Less than one year	1.53	N/A	1.53	1.67	1.17	1.50	1.76	1.11
One year olds	1.53	N/A	1.53	1.67	1.17	1.50	1.76	1.11
Two years old	1.53	N/A	1.53	1.67	1.17	1.50	1.76	1.11
Three years old	1.53	N/A	1.53	1.67	1.17	1.50	1.76	1.11
Four years old	1.54	N/A	1.54	1.68	1.17	1.50	1.76	1.11
Five years old	1.53	N/A	1.53	1.67	1.17	1.50	1.76	1.11
School aged	1.51	N/A	1.51	1.67	1.16	1.50	1.76	1.09

Fee Discounts and Collection

Table E

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region : West	Region : Piedmont	Region : East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
% Homes that offer fee discounts for more than one child	50.8	8.6	52.1	46.1	59.5	63.2	40.3	66.7
% Homes that offer fee discounts for other family circumstances	30.8	8.6	31.6	26.3	39.0	21.1	31.3	37.9
% Homes that always charge a fee when children are absent	22.9	65.7	21.7	27.6	14.3	10.5	32.8	6.7
% Homes that sometimes charge a fee when children are absent	12.7	11.4	13.0	13.2	11.9	5.3	17.9	6.7
% Homes that never charge a fee when children are absent	64.4	22.9	65.2	59.2	73.8	84.2	49.3	86.7
% Homes that expect to raise their fee within six months	15.3	5.7	15.7	17.1	11.9	5.3	19.4	10.0
% Homes that have some trouble in collecting fees	4.2	0.0	4.4	4.0	4.8	5.3	1.5	10.0
% Homes that have very little trouble in collecting fees	8.5	0.0	8.7	10.5	4.8	5.3	10.5	3.3
% Homes that have no trouble in collecting fees	87.3	100.0	87.0	85.5	90.5	89.5	88.1	86.7

Participation in Family
Day Care Home Subsidy Programs

Table F

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region : West	Region : Piedmont	Region : East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
% Homes in Child Care Food Program	2.5	62.9	.9	-	-	-	-	-
Average monthly income in child care food program	130.52	132.05	100.00	131.10	130.00	-	127.56	132.75
% Homes in Department of Human Resources Day Care Purchase Program	2.5	100.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Average monthly income from DHR program	445.33	445.33	N/A	501.00	381.24	386.67	449.83	437.53
% of children in subsidized programs that are receiving a subsidy	89.0	89.0	0.00	88.0	88.0	83.3	91.2	86.3

Provision of Snacks and Lunch,
Use of Staff Assistants

Table G

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
% Homes that provide 50% or more of snacks	94.1	94.3	93.9	93.4	95.2	94.7	92.5	96.7
% Homes that provide 50% or more of lunches	87.3	91.4	87.0	84.2	92.9	89.5	85.1	90.0
% Homes that provide no snacks	5.9	5.7	6.1	6.6	4.8	5.3	7.5	3.3
% Homes that provide no lunches	12.7	8.6	13.0	15.8	7.1	10.5	14.9	10.0
% Homes that have one or more regular assistants	7.6	5.7	7.8	6.6	9.5	5.3	10.5	3.3
Average hours per week, per assistant	30.1	49.0	30.3	31.2	29.0	57.0	21.2	49.0

Times of Operation

Table H

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region : West	Region : Piedmont	Region : East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
% Homes that regularly provide care at night	6.8	2.9	7.0	4.0	11.9	5.3	6.0	10.3
% Homes that regularly provide care on weekends	5.1	0.0	5.2	4.0	7.1	5.3	3.0	10.0
% Homes that provide care less than 5 days per week	1.7	0.0	1.7	2.6	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0
% Homes that provide care 5 days per week	95.0	100.0	94.8	96.1	92.9	100.0	97.0	86.7
% Homes that provide care 6 days per week	2.5	0.0	2.6	1.3	4.8	0.0	0.0	10.0
% Homes that provide care 7 days per week	.8	0.0	.9	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	3.3

Total # of Different Fee-Paying
Children Enrolled During the
Past Twelve Months

Table I

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
Average number of different children	6.1	6.5	6.1	5.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.0
% Homes with 1 - 5 children	57.8	34.3	57.5	64.0	46.3	47.4	64.2	53.6
% Homes with 6 - 10 children	34.5	60.0	34.5	28.0	46.3	47.4	28.4	35.7
% Homes with 11 - 15 children	3.4	5.7	3.5	4.0	2.4	5.3	1.5	7.1
% Homes with 16 - 20 children	3.4	0.0	3.5	4.0	2.4	0.0	4.5	3.4
% Homes with 21 - 25 children	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Homes with 26 - 30 children	.9	0.0	.9	0.0	2.4	0.0	1.5	0.0

Group Size and Adult/Child Ratio

Table J

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
Average group size (all ages)	5.3	4.4	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.4	4.7
Average group size for less than one year olds	5.9	5.1	5.9	5.7	6.2	6.2	6.5	4.5
Average group size for one year olds	5.4	4.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	6.3	5.5	4.4
Average group size for two year olds	5.7	4.6	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.3	6.0	4.4
Average group size for three year olds	6.1	4.7	6.1	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.1
Average group size for four year olds	6.1	5.0	6.2	5.9	6.4	5.2	7.0	5.6
Average group size for five year olds	6.3	4.6	6.5	6.6	5.7	9.5	6.2	6.0
Average group size for six year olds and older	6.6	5.2	6.6	6.4	6.7	7.3	6.8	6.0
Ratio of child to staff hours	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.3	2.9
Average # of hours provider works per week	47.3	45.3	47.4	48.0	45.9	46.1	47.9	47.3

Provider Experience In
Family Day Care
Table K

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
Average # years experience in child care	10.7	10.5	10.7	10.5	11.0	11.5	11.0	9.8
Average # years providing child care in own home	7.1	7.2	7.0	6.7	7.7	6.3	7.7	6.3
% Homes where provider has 1 - 5 years experience	35.6	23.5	35.7	31.6	42.9	36.8	31.3	43.3
% Homes where provider has 6 - 10 years experience	24.6	38.2	24.4	29.0	16.7	15.8	26.9	23.3
% Homes where provider has 11 - 15 years experience	17.8	14.7	18.3	18.4	16.7	10.5	17.9	23.3
% Homes where provider has 16 - 20 years experience	11.0	17.7	10.4	13.2	7.1	15.8	14.9	0.0
% Homes where provider has more than 20 years experience	11.0	5.9	11.3	7.9	16.7	21.1	9.0	10.0

Provider General Education and Training in Day Care

Table L

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
% Homes where provider has less than 8th grade education	5.9	11.4	6.1	2.6	11.9	5.3	7.5	3.3
% Homes where provider has 8 - 11 years education	33.1	31.4	33.0	36.8	26.2	36.8	26.9	46.7
% Homes where provider has 12 years education	48.3	48.6	47.8	44.7	54.8	52.6	50.8	36.7
% Homes where provider has 13 - 15 years education	6.8	8.6	7.0	7.9	4.8	5.3	6.0	10.0
% Homes where provider has 16 or more years of education	5.9	0.0	6.1	7.9	2.4	0.0	9.0	3.3
Average # of years of school completed	11.2	10.9	11.2	11.5	10.6	10.9	11.3	11.0
% Homes where provider had formal pre-service day care training	22.0	22.9	20.9	23.7	19.1	31.6	23.9	13.3
% Homes where provider had day care training in 1982	8.5	65.7	7.0	9.2	7.1	10.5	9.0	6.7
Average age of provider	44.4	46.7	44.2	44.9	43.4	42.7	44.9	44.1

Miscellaneous Characteristics
Table M

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
% Homes affiliated with a sponsoring organization	4.4	38.2	4.5	6.6	0.0	0.0	7.5	0.0
% Homes caring for one or more handicapped children	4.2	2.9	4.4	4.0	4.8	0.0	6.0	3.3
% Homes that had to turn down a handicapped child	2.5	0.0	2.6	2.6	2.4	0.0	3.0	3.3
% Homes that keep separate business records	69.5	77.1	68.7	71.1	66.7	63.2	70.2	70.0
% Homes that claim a tax deduction for a business	61.9	60.0	61.7	61.8	61.9	57.9	64.2	56.7
% Homes that provide parents with payment receipts	76.3	48.6	78.3	76.3	76.2	79.0	77.6	73.3

Percent of Homes With After-Expenses* Weekly Income In The Following Categories

Table N

* Expenses include food and day care materials only.

	Statewide	Subsidized	Non-Subsidized	Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	Region: West	Region: Piedmont	Region: East
Number Responding	118	35	115	76	42	19	67	30
\$ 0 - \$25.00	24.8	9.7	24.5	23.9	26.3	29.4	19.1	33.3
\$26.00 - \$50.00	25.7	16.1	26.4	21.1	34.2	29.4	22.2	33.3
\$51.00 - \$75.00	13.8	22.6	14.2	12.7	15.8	23.5	15.9	3.7
\$76.00 - \$100.00	16.5	16.1	16.0	22.5	5.3	11.8	15.9	18.5
\$101.00 - \$125.00	11.9	12.9	12.3	9.9	15.8	5.9	14.3	11.1
Over \$125.00	7.3	22.6	6.6	9.9	2.6	0.0	12.7	0.0
Average after-expenses income	\$63.79	\$86.94	\$63.21	\$68.76	\$54.50	\$49.71	\$73.81	\$50.11

IV. APPENDIX

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

These definitions are provided to assist the reader in better understanding the final report:

After-Expenses Weekly Income: This term refers to the usual amount of money that family day care providers reported they take in each week after the cost of day care related food and play materials have been deducted. This term does not include any occupancy costs such as mortgage or rent and utilities.

After-School Day Care: This term refers to care provided to school age children only in the afternoons after school has ended.

Average Group Size: This is a measure of the average number of children in family day care homes computed for each age level. For example, average group size for children less than one year old is computed by taking the mean of the total group sizes of all family day care homes that contain one or more fee-paying child less than one year old.

Child Care Food Program: This is a program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction to provide cash subsidies for the cost of food and food preparation in approved family day care homes affiliated with a non-profit organization.

Day Care Purchase Program: This is a program administered by the N.C. Department of Human Resources to purchase day care for low income children in approved family day care homes. The family day care homes that participate in the DHR program are referred to as "subsidized" for purpose of comparisons made in the cost study.

Fee-Paying Children: This term refers to children for whom the family day care provider receives a fee for day care services.

Full-Time: This term is used to mean 30 or more hours per week.

Metropolitan: This term refers to family day care homes in counties designated as Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas by the U.S. Bureau of Census. A map in the Appendix indicates which counties are metropolitan.

Non-Fee Paying Children: This term refers to children of the family day care provider and/or relatives and for whom the provider cares but receives no fee for day care services.

Non-Metropolitan: This term refers to family day care homes in counties that have not been designated as Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. A map in the Appendix indicates which counties are considered non-metropolitan.

Non-Subsidized: This term refers to family day care homes that do not participate in the Department of Human Resources Day Care Purchase Program.

Number of Children Cared For: This term refers to the total number of children present in the day care home and includes both fee-paying and non-fee-paying children.

Part-Time: This term is used to mean less than 30 hours per week.

Pre-Service Training: This term refers to any formal training in day care prior to becoming a family day care provider but does not include any previous experience working in child care.

Ratio of Child to Staff Hours: This is a measure of staff-child ratio based on the total number of hours that all children are in family day care and the total number of hours worked by the family day care provider. This ratio is computed by dividing the total number of hours worked by the family day care provider in one month into the total number of hours of day care that all children received.

Region of State: For purposes of the survey, the state was divided into three regions: West, Piedmont, and East. A map in the Appendix indicates which counties are located in each of the three regions.

Statewide: This term refers to sample estimates representing all day care centers in the state. Statewide statistics are based on the survey responses of 118 family day care homes.

Subsidized: This term refers to family day care homes that participate in the Department of Human Resources Day Care Purchase Program and receive payments from the Department of Human Resources for the care of children from eligible low-income families.

Subsidized Children: These are children for whom a subsidized family day care home provider receives payments for care from the Department of Human Resources.

Weekly Fee: This is the amount of money that most parents usually pay the family day care provider each week for full-time day care.

METHODOLOGY

Sample Selection

When surveying a portion of any population group, it is customary to draw a simple random sample for study that will later be used to estimate characteristics of the entire population. Since the day care cost study sought to describe similarities and differences among all family day care homes in the state, utilization of a simple random sample would be appropriate and economical because it would permit selection of only a portion or sample of family day care homes instead of having to obtain information on all the registered day care homes in the state.

The Department of Administration's Office of Child Day Care Licensing maintains a list of all registered day care homes (also called plans). Registration with the Office is required by law if a person provides day care for more than one and less than six children. However, the Office is not required to inspect or license the homes so inspection visits are not a routine procedure. Because the Office does not typically visit day care homes, a telephone interview was selected over an on-site personal interview as the most feasible data collection procedure. The decision to conduct survey interviews by phone also increased the probability that a truly random sample of day care homes could be used since there would be no travel or scheduling restrictions limiting which homes might be included.

Therefore, random selection of family day care homes was used to develop the study sample. Initially, a random sample of 550 family day care homes was drawn from the current file of homes maintained by the Office of Child Day Care Licensing. However, a large number of the homes contained on this list could not be contacted for participation in the study. Some homes did not have telephones and others had had their phones disconnected. Many persons who previously cared for children indicated that they were no longer operating a family day care home although their state registration remained active. Some persons on the list could not be reached after three attempts to complete a phone call. Only 10 family day care providers on the list and currently providing care openly refused to participate in the study. From the initial sample of 550 homes, a total of 125 homes were contacted and agreed to participate in the study.

Because a basic purpose of the cost study was to make comparisons between subsidized and non-subsidized day care arrangements, an additional supplemental sample of subsidized homes was selected to increase their representation in the total sample and provide a better data base to use in making comparisons between the two types of homes. Of the 125 homes contacted and surveyed in the original sample, 10 were subsidized and 115 were non-subsidized. Therefore, from a list of all currently operating subsidized homes in the state, the names of the 10 homes already surveyed were deleted and then an additional 25 homes were randomly selected. All 25 of the subsidized homes included in the supplemental sample were contacted and all agreed to participate in the study.

A total of 150 homes participated in the study. As indicated previously, only 10 providers in the original sample actually refused to participate. The large number of homes in the Office of Child Day Care Licensing file that no longer provide care, could not be reached, or had disconnected phone numbers, indicates a need to upgrade and update the data base file of registered day care homes maintained by the Office.

Survey Development

The Day Care Home Survey instrument was developed during the period from November 1982 to January 1983. The content of the survey was drawn from a number of sources including the 1981 National Family Day Care Study, the North Carolina Day Care Cost Survey (for centers) and questions submitted by the staff of the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly, the Technical Advisory Committee to the cost study, and staff of the Office of Child Day Care Licensing and the Office of Day Care Services.

The home survey was primarily designed to collect information on the characteristics of family day care homes, fees charged for care, and the approximate net income of providers that is attributable to their family day care work. Inasmuch as most day care homes do not operate like day care centers by maintaining separate and detailed business records, it was not possible to analyze in detail the various categories of income and monthly expenses for the homes.

The final survey instrument was preceded by two draft versions each of which was shortened and refined by pilot testing it with family day care operators. A total of 25 home providers contributed to the revisions in the two draft surveys. The final survey contained 45 questions and required approximately fifteen to twenty minutes to complete. A copy is included in the Appendix.

Data Collection

The Day Care Home Survey was administered by telephone to day care providers selected in either the original or supplemental random samples of day care homes. Staff of the Office of Child Day Care Licensing interviewed the 125 providers who participated in the original sample. Staff of the Office of Day Care Services conducted the interviews for the 25 additional subsidized homes in the supplemental sample. All data were coded and entered directly on the survey form.

All persons who conducted the telephone interviews with home providers received written instructions and training in the administration of the surveys to ensure that they understood the meaning of all questions and that the interviews would be carried out in a consistent manner within both offices.

While the survey was not anonymous, providers were assured of the confidentiality of their answers on the survey. Also, as an incentive for participation, providers were promised a copy of the survey results when the study was completed.

Data Analysis

The Department of Administration contracted with the Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services at North Carolina State University to key and edit the already coded surveys and then to produce computer printouts of the study results. The director of the cost study worked closely with the staff at the Center for Urban Affairs to complete these tasks in preparation for the computation of final study statistics. The Center for Urban Affairs also provided valuable consultation and assistance regarding the presentation of survey results.

The findings presented in the final report are based on two basic statistical measures. The first measure is the mean or average and was used whenever the statistic shown is not expressed as a percentage. For example, the average number of children cared for is presented as a mean of all the homes. The second measure that was used is simply the percentage of day care homes in the sample, i.e., the percent of homes that offer fee discounts for more than one child in the same family. Some helpful guidelines for interpreting the meaning of specific sample percentages in estimating characteristics of the entire population are given in the upcoming section entitled Precision of the Sample Statistics.

Full Sample and Adjusted Sample

Survey data were analyzed using two different samples: the full sample, which included all homes participating in the study, and an adjusted sample. It was necessary to develop a separate adjusted sample of homes since the proportion of subsidized homes in the full sample was greater than their proportion to all day care homes in the state. Whereas subsidized homes represented about 23 percent of the full sample of 150 homes in the study, they account for only about 2 percent of all registered family day care homes in the state. Therefore, an adjusted sample was created by randomly selecting subsidized homes from the full sample to represent about 2 percent of the total adjusted sample size.

Because a large number of subsidized homes is desirable when making contrasts between subsidized and non-subsidized homes, the full sample of 150 family day care homes was used for these comparisons. However, when summarizing data statewide, and making comparisons by region or metropolitan status, the adjusted sample of 118 family day care homes was used because the percentage of subsidized homes included (2%) was more representative of the proportion of subsidized homes within the entire population of day care homes in the state.

The data summary tables show the number of day care homes responding in each comparison category. While 118 homes were included in the statewide analysis, when comparisons by region and metropolitan status were made, a smaller number of homes were included in each category or sub-sample of homes. For example, the analysis of the western region included only 19 homes in comparison with 67 homes in the piedmont and 30 homes in the east. Such small and unequal sub-samples make interpretation of data and comparisons across

categories of homes rather difficult. The reader is urged to review the next section which discusses the capacity of sample percentages to estimate characteristics of the total population when the samples are of different sizes.

Precision of the Sample Statistics

Drawing a sample from a population group, such as the population of all day care homes in North Carolina, allows estimates to be made about characteristics of that population without having to survey all family day care homes in the state. However, when estimates are made based on a sample, it is expected that the sample estimates will be somewhat different from the actual values if the entire population had been surveyed.

The following table is included to give the reader some information regarding how sample size can affect the amount of error contained in the sample statistics. As evidenced by the table, the smallest samples typically have the largest sampling errors.

Sampling Errors (Two Standard Errors) For
Simple Random Samples at the 95% Confidence Level

<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>30% or 70%</u>	<u>10% or 90%</u>
120	9	8	5
60	13	12	8
30	18	17	11

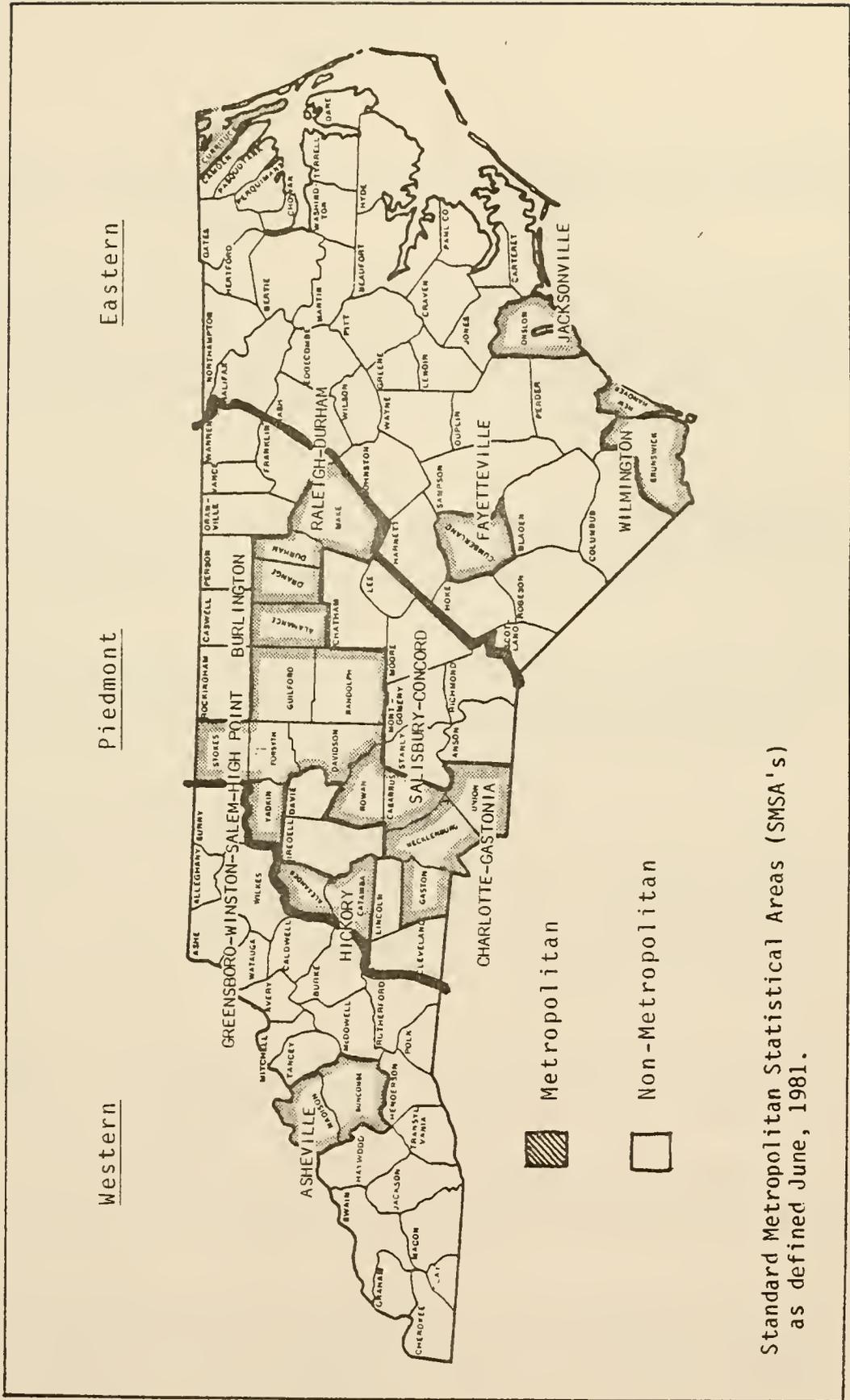
The sampling error can be used to determine a range around the sample statistic which is called a confidence interval. The table illustrates that the smaller the sample, the larger the sampling error and the larger the corresponding range of error or confidence interval around the sample estimate. For simple random samples, the range is equal to the estimated percentage based on sample results plus or minus the sampling error shown in the table. For example, if the sample size is 120 and the sample estimate is 50%, the sampling error is 9 percent and the confidence interval will range from 41 percent (50% - 9%) to 59 percent (50% + 9%). In contrast, when the sample size is a considerably smaller 30, the sampling error is a much higher 18 percent and the confidence interval is also much wider - 32 percent (50% - 18%) to 68 percent (50% + 18%).

The sampling error values contained in the table were computed based on a confidence level of 95 percent. This means that chances are 95 in 100 that the actual population percentage will fall somewhere within the confidence interval for the sample estimate.

It is important to point out that the preceding table of sampling errors applies only to sample statistics that are expressed as a percentage of all day care homes. Possible examples include the percentage of homes that offer fee discounts for more than one child from the same family or the percentage of homes affiliated with a sponsoring organization. The table cannot be used with means (averages) because it applies only to standard errors for percentages.

Inasmuch as all statistics reported in the final report were computed based on the number of homes that responded to each individual question, the actual sample size varied slightly for each variable. For anyone interested, sample size information for each variable in the study is available by contacting Dr. Beverly Wiggins in the Department of Administration.

N.C. SMSA'S



Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) as defined June, 1981.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR DAY CARE PLANS
IN
NORTH CAROLINA

Article 7, Chapter 110 of the General Statutes is legislation passed by the General Assembly in 1971 to regulate day care. This legislation includes the regulation of day care arrangements identified as day care plans where day care is provided for 2 to 5 children.

The North Carolina Child Day Care Licensing Commission has the responsibility to register day care plans so that those arrangements can be identified, so that there can be an accurate census of the number of children receiving care in day care plans, and so that anyone who operates a day care plan may receive educational and consultative services if desired. The Commission also has the power and duty to adopt rules and regulations for day care plans.

I. What is day care?

"Day Care" includes any child care arrangement where a child less than 13 years of age receives care away from his own home by persons other than his parents, grandparents, guardians or full-time custodians.

II. What is a day care plan?

A "day care plan" is a program or child care arrangement where any person provides day care for more than one child and less than six children wherever operated.

III. What does the law require of day care plans?

A. Registration: The day care plan must be registered with the Office of Child Day Care Licensing. In order to register, the person who will operate the day care plan must fill out a form, available from the Office of Child Day Care Licensing, which gives identifying information about the day care plan. That completed form must be submitted to the licensing office.

Whenever the name or address of a registered day care plan operator changes, the plan operator must notify the Office of Child Day Care Licensing of that change. It is very important for the plan operator to report these changes as soon as possible in order to keep his/her registration valid.

It should be noted that when the day care plan operator signs the Registration Form, he/she is certifying that all staff qualifications and other state requirements for registration are being met and will be maintained.

B. Staff Qualifications: No day care plan shall be operated by or employ any person who has been convicted of a crime involving child abuse, child neglect, or moral turpitude, or who is an habitually excessive user of alcohol or who illegally uses narcotics or other impairing drugs, or who is mentally retarded or mentally ill to an extent that may be injurious to children.

C. N.C. State Building Codes: The home (or building) used for the day care plan must meet the requirements of the "Uniform State Building Codes for Dwellings". The day care operator and/or the Office of Child Day Care Licensing may ask the local building inspector to inspect the home or building if there is concern or question about compliance with these codes.

Children receiving care in a day care plan must be kept only on the first floor level if the building is wood frame construction, which includes a brick veneer building.

IV. What are the penalties for not complying with state requirements?

Every day care plan must be registered and must maintain compliance with requirements. Failure to register and maintain compliance with requirements is a general misdemeanor subject to a fine and/or imprisonment.

V. Are there local requirements that concern day care plans?

In addition to the above state requirements, there are often city or county requirements that must be met by day care plans. This is particularly true of zoning regulations. Local government officials must be contacted for information about local requirements.

VI. Can the Office of Child Day Care Licensing assist day care plan operators with problems and concerns related to the day care program?

Yes, the Office of Child Day Care Licensing wants to be of assistance to day care plan operators. Consultation to help with problems or improve the day care program is available, without cost, to the day care plan operator. Free printed information on many subjects related to day care in homes is also available. Books and other materials are available from the resource library.

DEFINITION OF A CERTIFIED FAMILY DAY CARE HOME

A family day care home is a residence, usually occupied, in which a person provides care for a limited number of children for some part of a 24 hour day. Certification means that a home operator, who has complied with any local regulations and State licensing requirements, has also been approved by a Day Care Consultant of the State Division of Social Services as meeting standards established by this Division, which include the Federal Interagency Day Care Requirements.

A certified family day care home provides an informal, flexible environment for activities designed to meet the developmental needs of children. The caregiver's understanding and use of the learning experiences created through the daily routines of a home, as well as through specially planned excursions and activities, provide experiences which promote the social, emotional, and intellectual growth of each child.

The family day care home is the smallest facility certified by the State Division of Social Services. The certified family day care home is limited to a maximum enrollment of 8 children in a 24 hour day, with no more than 5 children scheduled to attend at any one time. The actual number for which a family day care home may be certified is determined by the Day Care Consultant, based on the size of the home, capabilities and desire of the caregiver, and the number and age range of the caregiver's own children.

Family day care is an appropriate arrangement for any child. It is often chosen for the infant/toddler, the child who is not physically or emotionally ready for care in a larger group, or for the child needing care before and after school. Family day care is often best suited to meet the needs of children who require care overnight, in the late afternoons or on varied schedules.

A certified family day care home may be operated by an individual on a private basis or as an agency day care service under the supervision or auspices of a county department of social services or another social agency.

NOTE: For purposes of these standards, the terms caregiver, family day care mother, owner, and operator are used interchangeably.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFYING FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES

The requirements for certifying family day care homes outlined here represent a level of care which supplements and enriches the care provided to young children by their parents in their own homes. The family day care home should involve minimum disruption of the normal pattern of living for both a child and his family.

The concern of the day care mother must be for the total needs of young children. Her care is not limited to physical safety and good health of children, but extends beyond these basic protections to include experiences which enhance a child's social, emotional, and intellectual development.

The following outline of minimum requirements for certification by the North Carolina Division of Social Services describes the quality of administrative procedures which will allow and encourage development toward child-centered programs.

No requirements can be written in such a way as to eliminate the need for human judgment. For this reason, it is realistic to anticipate that judgment held by the day care mother and the certifying agency may differ on occasions. Only mutual trust and goodwill between the day care mother and the certifying agency make possible the intelligent application of a written set of requirements if family day care is to fulfill its objectives to the child and his family.

ADMINISTRATION

Recommended Practices:

In a privately-owned family day care home, administrative responsibility rests with the owner/day care mother. Defining and writing policies for parents and staff, keeping accurate records, assuring fiscal reliability, and establishing procedures for dealing with emergencies are vital administrative functions performed by the owner/day care mother. In addition, it is her responsibility to work not only with parents, but also with community agencies which may be resources to her or the children and their families.

For her own use, the day care mother maintains a complete and accurate account of all income and expenditures. The day care mother should be aware of the need for adequate insurance.

It is essential that plans for handling emergencies be written and easily accessible to both children and other adults. It is recommended that the day care mother define emergency exit routes and develop a means of familiarizing the children with these routes. One possibility is through regularly scheduled drills. These drills should be held at various times during the day and might be done as a game with the children. Another necessity is that the children know how to reach another adult in case of an accident or other emergency involving the day care mother. As a part of emergency procedures, the day care mother should have a car or plan for the use of other available means of transportation.

Administration and Records

For purposes of certification, the following are requirements:

1. Written policies which define the services of the home and the responsibilities of the day care mother and parents in at least the following areas:

purpose of program	enrollment procedure
ages of children	transportation services
hours of operation	meals and snacks
fees and payment plan	personal belongings of children
special plans for infant care	care of sick children
administration of medications	insurance coverage for accidents

These policies should be shared with the parents when the child is enrolled in the day care home.

(See Guideline for Policy Development, Appendix B.)

2. Individual files on children to include completed and signed application for enrollment and current medical record reports.
3. Business reports to include:
registration with Office of Child Day Care Licensing; sanitation, building and fire inspection reports; current medical records on day care mother and family and anyone else who assists in caring for the children on a regular basis; attendance records of children, record of fee payments; signed Civil Rights Compliance Statement, (See Appendix J).
4. There must be a telephone in the day care home. A list of emergency phone numbers should be posted near the telephone. Contact and emergency information on each child should also be near the telephone and easily accessible to the day care mother and anyone who assists in caring for the children.
5. Emergency exit routes should be established and drills for vacating the home in case of an emergency must be practiced regularly with the children. Children should also be instructed as to how to contact another adult in case of an emergency involving the day care mother.

Qualifications of the Day Care Family

Recommended Practices:

Although a day care mother has primary responsibility for children, her family is also involved. The fact that they, as well as the mother, like and enjoy children and are capable of giving them affection, security, and guidance should be obvious in attitudes and behavior.

For purposes of certification, the following are requirements:

1. The day care mother is at least 21 years of age.

2. Demonstration by day care mother of communicative ability, mature judgment, emotional stability and physical energy necessary to care for young children, willingness to participate in training.
3. Both the day care mother and her family must have current medical reports on file attesting that they are free of communicable diseases or other conditions that could prove harmful to the children in care. These reports should be renewed annually.
4. Evidence of day care mother's ability to handle an emergency calmly, promptly and intelligently.
5. Demonstration of day care mother's practical knowledge of a child's growth and development in order to meet adequately his basic needs.
6. Evidence of day care mother's basic understanding of sanitation procedures and ability to prepare wholesome food.
7. Members of the day care family have the personal characteristics for providing a wholesome homelike atmosphere for children. Apparent difficulties in family relationships or personal problems present no situations harmful to children.
8. Three written, satisfactory references attesting to the suitability of the day care mother and her family to care for young children.
9. Evidence that any person employed by the day care mother to assist with the care of the children possesses the same personal qualifications required for the day care mother. Anyone who assists in caring for the children should have a current medical report on file attesting that he is free of communicable diseases or conditions that could prove harmful to the children. No person against whom there has been a valid complaint of child abuse or neglect may provide care for children enrolled in the day care home.

Number of Children and Staff
And Hours of Operation

Recommended Practices:

The number of children in a family day care home is determined by the ages of children, hours of operation, number of family members or other responsible adults providing care, number and ages of a day care mother's own children, amount and arrangement of indoor and outdoor space and equipment, and the personal preference of a day care mother. Due to the demands on the day care mother in providing adequate care for children, it is recommended that a family day care home operate no more than 10-12 hours in a 24 hour period. Once a home is certified for a given number of children, specified age range and certain types of arrangements, such may not be changed without prior approval of the certifying agency staff.

For purposes of certification, the following are requirements:

1. The day care mother must determine the age range of children for which she wishes the day care home to be certified. This decision is defined as the "certifying age range." All children enrolled must be within the age range for which the home is certified.
2. The day care mother must determine the number of children for which she wishes the day care home to be certified. Care may be provided to a maximum of five children at any one time, including the day care mother's own children less than fourteen years of age. The total number of children enrolled in a 24 hour period may not exceed eight.
3. The hours of operation may allow care for more than one group of children in a 24 hour period. The day care mother must determine if she wishes to provide full day care, after-school care, second-shift care, overnight care or some combination of these arrangements:
 - a. If the day care mother chooses to provide care in two types of arrangements, the day care home may operate no more than 16 hours in a 24 hour period. The total number of children receiving care during this 16 hours may not exceed 8, with no more than 5 scheduled to receive care at any one time.
 - b. If the day care mother decides to operate the day care home 24 hours a day to accommodate children whose day care schedule varies, for example, children whose parents work rotating shifts, the number of children for which that day care home may be certified is limited to 5.
4. In all cases, certifying agency staff must evaluate and approve the age range, number of children, and types of arrangements for which the day care home is certified. Prior approval by certifying agency staff must be obtained for any change in age range, number of children, or types of arrangements for which the day care home is certified. Certification is no longer valid if such approval is not obtained.
5. The total number of children under two years of age cared for at any one time by a day care mother alone may not exceed two, including her own children. When a second full-time responsible adult assists the day care mother, the number of children under two years of age may be more than two, but not more than five in a twenty-four hour period.
6. Regardless of the number of children or their ages, there is an identifiable person on call for emergencies, who is acquainted with children, the daily routine, and the operation of the day care home.

Enrollment Procedure

Recommended Practices:

Since the young child has strong emotional ties with his parents and his home, any separation from his parents and home may be difficult. The separation from parents and the adjustment to the home will be eased if the child knows (or can know) the day care mother and if the home is located within his own familiar neighborhood.

The enrollment procedure provides an opportunity for a day care mother and a parent to exchange information. The day care mother and a parent through mutual consideration of the program and of the child determine whether the home can meet the individual needs of a child and his family.

For purposes of certification, the following are requirements:

1. A parent exchanges information about his child with the day care mother at the time of enrollment. Together, they determine whether the home can meet the individual needs of a child and his family.
2. An application providing information about the child and his family, including the name of a child's personal physician and an emergency plan with parent's permission for emergency medical care, is completed and signed by a parent and the day care mother.
3. Before a child is enrolled, there is an understanding with his parent regarding the hours he will be in care, the fee, plan of payment, how he shall arrive at the home and to whom he will be released.
4. Prior to enrollment a child receives a medical examination by a licensed physician. The medical report of the examination shows a child has had or is receiving immunizations recommended for his age and includes any information which would indicate limited ability, physically or emotionally, to participate in activities. The medical examination is repeated and reported every four months for the child under one year, every six months for the child between one and two years, and at intervals appropriate to the age and state of health of the child over two years.
5. Arrangements are made for a child and his parent to visit in the day care home so that parent and child may become familiar with the surroundings and the person who will be caring for the child.

Transportation

Recommended Practices:

Most parents provide transportation for a child to a family day care home and they should be encouraged to so do. However, if care for school-age children is provided, a day care mother may agree to provide

transportation to or from school. When transportation is provided by a day care mother, whatever the age of the children, she must recognize the added responsibility she assumes for the safety of the children and her own liability.

For purposes of certification the following are requirements:

1. If transportation is provided for more than one infant (or toddler), there is an assistant in the car or bus to help care for the infants while enroute.
2. Each child transported has a seat and remains seated while the vehicle is in motion.
3. There is no more (and preferably less) than one hour riding time each way for a child.
4. Liability insurance is carried to cover children being transported to and from the family day care home. The day care mother must assume responsibility for provision of adequate accident insurance when she transports children.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Recommended Practices:

The physical aspects of a family day care home contribute to the overall quality of care a child receives. A home adequate for day care provides ample, open indoor and outdoor space and equipment for daily activities of children and presents no hazards to health and safety. Thirty-five square feet of usable floor space for each child may be used as a guideline to assess the adequacy of indoor floor space. It is strongly recommended that the first floor of a home be used for major activities and sleeping while children are in care.

For purposes of certification, the following are requirements:

1. A family day care home is located where there are no conditions hazardous to the physical or moral welfare of children. No business which may adversely affect the welfare of the children is conducted on the premises.
2. A family day care home meets all local ordinances.
3. There are satisfactory initial inspection reports from building, fire and health authorities having jurisdiction. The day care family understands that the home is subject to periodic inspections by local officials to assure continuing safety and sanitation. Satisfactory fire and sanitation inspection reports are required annually.
4. A family day care home is spacious enough and so arranged that children in care can move about freely and have open space for various indoor activities.

5. Play materials are kept in an orderly fashion in designated areas.
6. Chairs, tables and other furnishings are appropriate in size for safety and comfort.
7. If infants are in care, there is space for cribs to be separated. Hallways and access to doors are never blocked. The infant is given the opportunity to move about safely and to explore, rather than being confined to the crib all day. The infant shall have time out of doors each day in good weather.
8. An individual bed, crib, or cot, and linens, are provided for each child's rest or sleep, and used only by him/her. If the child's hours in care occur during nighttime hours, he has an individual bed, crib, or firm cot fitted with a mattress and appropriate linens. Children do not sleep on beds that are used regularly (daily) by family members. Beds that are seldom used by family members (on weekends or holidays) may be used by the child only if prior to the child's use the bed is equipped with a clean mattress pad or cover and is made up with clean linens.
9. Designated spaces are provided for each child's coat, hat, and personal belongings with a plan for storing extra clothing.
10. Outdoor play areas are on premises or easily accessible. For each child a minimum of 100 square feet is available for outdoor activities. The outdoor area is clean, free of weeds, and well drained. It is clear of litter, nails, glass and obvious hazards.
11. All stationary equipment is firmly anchored. All metal equipment is free of sharp and jagged edges.
12. The outdoor play area is well defined by fence, natural barrier, or hedge to make it safe from traffic and other hazards except where local ordinances require that play areas be fenced. Final decision about the requirements for a fence rests with certifying agency staff even when a fence is not required by local ordinance.

PROGRAM

Recommended Practices:

The program in a family day care home, by nature of the setting, is relaxed and informal so that a child may have the benefit of experiences of family living. It is important, however, to plan opportunities for enriched learning through experiences suitable to the children in care. Play materials should be readily available and space in the home arranged to encourage play. Please refer to the Program Equipment List, Appendix G, for guidance in selecting appropriate equipment. Rest, sleep, meals, and play should be planned with the regularity that offers security to a child yet remain flexible enough to assure an unhurried, homelike atmosphere.

In planning activities, the individual child's total day must be considered: when he leaves home and returns; the family activities of which he is a part and those he misses; sleep and meal scheduling; the neighborhood activities which should be available to him.

It is important that the experiences of the child in his family be related to his experiences in the family day care home. This can be accomplished when there is meaningful communication between the day care mother and the parent.

Where available, it is recommended that the day care mother take advantage of training programs to enhance the quality of care she provides and her understanding of children's needs.

For purposes of certification, the following are requirements:

Daily Activities

1. Daily activities are planned in accordance with ages, developmental level, and interests of the children in care.
2. Play materials and equipment, indoor and outdoor, are carefully selected and presented to stimulate interest and learning and to enhance different aspects of a child's development-- language, coordination, imagination, cooperation, learning about nature, people, the community.
3. Children have opportunities to see and participate in usual household routines--helping with preparation of meals, sweeping, dusting, gardening.
4. There is a balance of indoor and outdoor play supervised at all times by a responsible adult.
5. Excursions away from the home (to the park, library, airport, etc.) are planned in accordance with individual needs of children.
6. Children, particularly school-agers, have the opportunity to use the same community resources as other children of their age in the same neighborhood. Supervision of older children is careful but not overprotective.
7. Children are encouraged but not forced to participate in any play or activity.
8. The method of discipline complies with good child care practices with no severe or unusual punishment administered. Food is not withheld as a punishment for a child.
9. The day care mother organizes her work in such a way that while children are in care she is concerned primarily with their supervision rather than with housekeeping duties.

Special Needs of Infants and Toddlers

10. Younger children are provided protection during play activities when children of varying ages are in care.
11. The routine of care for infants is adapted to individual needs and fits as much as possible into the schedule set up by the parents.
12. The help given to children in toilet training and other developmental/self-care training experiences is relaxed and coordinated with the training started by the parents.
13. The day care mother has time to hold, cuddle, talk and sing to the infant and time to understand and respond to his particular needs.
14. Infants have opportunities to move about safely and to explore, rather than be confined to cribs all day. They have time out of doors each day in good weather.

Meals and Nutrition

Recommended Practices:

Meal time and snack time should be times for sociability and special attention to individual children, a pleasant and relaxed time for both adults and children, a time for gradually learning self help in feeding, independence, and "social graces" appropriate to meal times.

For purposes of certification, the following are requirements:

1. Planning of meals is on the basis of the individual needs of each child in care and in accordance with guidelines outlined above.
2. Meals are regularly scheduled and served family-style in a pleasant and informal atmosphere.
3. A nutritious, well-balanced noon meal is served to each child in care for four or more hours. If the child is in care either in the early morning or in the late afternoon, an additional meal is served. Nutritious snacks are provided in morning and afternoon.
4. Infants are fed in a manner to which they are accustomed, except that bottles are not propped.
5. Older infants are fed in safe chairs and children two years and older have a place at the table that is comfortable and conducive to children's feeding themselves.
6. The parents provide formula for the infant in care and the parent or day care mother provides supplemental food with instructions provided by the child's doctor.

7. Food provided for a specific child is not to be fed to another child. No two little mouths shall be fed with the same spoon.
8. Children with health problems requiring special diets are accepted for care only if foods can be provided in the amount and variety ordered by the physician.

Sleep and Rest

1. Provisions for sleep and rest are made on the basis of age and individual need; however, all pre-school children in care six or more hours rest on individual cribs, cots or beds for a period of at least one-half hour during the day, even though they may not sleep.
2. A period for rest or quiet activity is provided for the school-age child.
3. Children are not punished or threatened about sleep.
4. Children under 18 months rest or sleep in individual cribs with side rails for protection.
5. A watchful adult is present in the house while children sleep.

HEALTH PRACTICES IN A DAY CARE HOME

For purposes of certification, the following are requirements:

1. Children with red measles, chickenpox, and tuberculosis are not admitted to the home until the disease is cured or has run its course. In other diseases where the child's ability to participate is doubtful, a doctor's opinion is secured.
2. Children diagnosed by the physician to have a virus rash (German measles and intestinal virus with rashes), mild colds, and intestinal upsets, may be admitted if not feverish in the mornings and if able to participate in the daily activities. This applies only to children who are enrolled in the home at the time the illness developed.
3. Children with skin lesions are kept clean, protected from children with active smallpox immunizations, and seen by a physician if the lesions persist longer than one week or occur in more than one member of the child's family or day care group.
4. There is an isolation area where children too sick to remain in the day care home may be comfortable and pleasantly kept until the parent can arrive.
5. No children are accepted on a "drop-in" basis.

7. There is careful handwashing for adults and for children after toileting.
8. Individual wash cloths and towels or disposable paper substitutes are provided for adults and children.
9. Individual facial tissues are used for each child and discarded.
10. Hygienic table habits are practiced by adults and taught to children.
11. Adults take care not to cough into or near the face of another. Children are taught to cover coughs.
12. Food is not withheld as a punishment for a child.
13. There is no uncontrolled display of temper by an adult.
14. No medication is given without the signed consent of the parent. A day care mother exercises judgment in determining whether she will administer medicines brought by parents.
15. If the policies of the day care home provide that parents may bring medicines to be given to a child, such medication is administered only if the parent provides explicit directions for the dosage and time period medicine is to be given. Such are written, dated and signed by the parent. Prescribed medicines have a pharmacist's label bearing the name of the child, date of the prescription and directions for dosage, or the physician provides written directions with the medication specifying the name of the child for whom he prescribes.
16. When any question arises concerning the type, age, or appropriateness of medicine brought by a parent for a child, the day care mother shall refuse to give such medicines to a child without current instructions from a doctor.
17. No tranquilizers or sedatives are given to children except when prescribed for a child by a physician.
18. All medicines and cleaning supplies are locked safely away from the children.
19. The day care mother takes precautions to prevent accidents.
20. A plan for emergency first aid care is available. (A copy of helpful first aid instructions may be requested from the N. C. Medical Society, Post Office Box 790, Raleigh, North Carolina.) Where possible, the family day care mother should complete a first aid course in order to learn how to cope with emergencies concerning young children.

DAY CARE HOME SURVEY

* Survey # _____ 1 - 3
 * Card # _____ 1 4

1. Location of home (from county map)
 1) Metropolitan _____
 2) Non-Metropolitan _____ 5

2. Region of state (from county map)
 1) Western _____
 2) Piedmont _____
 3) Eastern _____ 6

3. What was the total # of different children that you cared for last week? (Monday - Friday) _____ 7 - 8

Of these, how many were your own or relative's children for which you do not receive a regular fee? _____ 9

Now, please tell me the schedule for each fee paying child you cared for last week. We will use this to answer some questions about the number of hours the children were in your care. Please just use first names. (Use this information to compute questions 4, 5, and 6. Record on a separate worksheet.)

Now, please tell me the ages of each of these children. (Record these on the worksheet and compute questions 4, 5, and 6.)

4. Children cared for for 30 hours or more per week: (from worksheet)

Total	_____	
Less than one year	_____	10
1 year old	_____	11
2 years old	_____	12
3 years old	_____	13
4 years old	_____	14
5 years old	_____	15
School age	_____	16

5. Children cared for for less than 30 hours per week: (from worksheet)

Total	_____	
Less than one year	_____	17 - 18
1 year old	_____	19 - 20
2 years old	_____	21 - 22
3 years old	_____	23 - 24
4 years old	_____	25 - 26
5 years old	_____	27 - 28
School age	_____	29 - 30

6. Compute the total number of hours of day care that all fee paying children received at the day care home last week. Add up the total number of hours of care from the worksheet. _____ 31 - 33

12. Does anyone else regularly work with you to care for children?		
	1) Yes (ask questions 13 - 15)	_____ 5
	2) No (skip to ques- tion 16)	
13. How many persons regularly assist you with caregiving?		_____ 6
14. Approximately how many total hours per week does this person (these persons) provide care for children?		_____ 7 - 9
15. How much per week do you pay your assistant? If more than one, record average weekly pay. (Round to nearest dollar.)		_____ 10 - 12
16. Do you receive funding from the Child Care Food Program?		
	1) Yes (ask ques- tion 17)	_____ 13
	2) No (skip to question 18)	
17. About how much is the average income from this program per month? (Round to nearest dollar.)		_____ 14 - 16
18. Do you currently participate in the Department of Human Resources Purchase of Care Program?		
	1) Yes (go to ques- tions 19 - 20)	_____ 17
	2) No (skip to ques- tion 21)	
19. How many children are receiving a subsidy?		_____ 18
20. About how much is the average income from this program per month? (Round to nearest dollar.)		_____ 19 - 22
21. Approximately, how many hours per week do you personally pro- vide day care?		_____ 23 - 24
22. Do you regularly provide day care at night? (Night care is two or more consecutive hours of care between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. at least one night per week for a fee paying child.)		
	1) Yes	
	2) No	_____ 25
23. Do you regularly provide day care on weekends?		
	1) Yes	
	2) No	_____ 26
24. How many days per week do you usually provide care?		_____ 27

25. Approximately, how many different fee paying children have received day care in your home over the past twelve months?	_____	28 - 29
26. Do you currently have additional fees for any services such as transportation or meals? (If yes, ask how much. If no, skip to question 27.) What are these and how much are they for each child per week on the average? (Dollars and cents)		
	Meals _____	30 - 33
	Transportation _____	34 - 37
	Diapers _____	38 - 41
	Field Trips _____	42 - 45
	Any Other _____	46 - 49
	Specify: _____	
27. Do you offer fee discounts when you care for more than one child from the same family?		
	1) Yes	
	2) No _____	50
28. Do you offer fee discounts for any other family circumstances?		
	1) Yes	
	2) No _____	51
29. If children are absent, do you still charge parents your usual fee?		
	1) Yes	
	2) No	
	3) Sometimes _____	52
30. Do you expect that you will raise your fee within the next six months?		
	1) Yes	
	2) No _____	53
31. How much trouble do you have in collecting fees from parents?		
	1) Much	
	2) Some	
	3) Very little	
	4) None _____	54
32. For the children you care for, how many parents usually pay by cash, check, or in some other way?		
	# by cash _____	55
	# by check _____	56
	# in some other way _____	57
33. How many years experience have you had caring for other people's children?	_____	58 - 59
34. How many years have you been providing child care in your home?	_____	60 - 61

35. Did you ever have formal training in caring for children before you began to provide child care?
 1) Yes
 2) No _____ 62
36. Did you have any formal training in day care in 1982?
 1) Yes
 2) No _____ 63
37. What is the highest grade in school that you completed? _____ 64 - 65
38. Would you please tell me your age? _____ 66 - 67
39. Is your day care home affiliated with some sponsoring organization or system? If so, please specify.
 Specify: _____
 1) Yes
 2) No _____ 68
40. Do you currently care for any handicapped children?
 If yes, specify disability) _____
 1) Yes
 2) No _____ 69
41. Have you ever had to turn down a handicapped child for enrollment for any reason?
 1) Yes
 2) No _____ 70
42. Do you keep financial records for your day care business that are separate from your personal home records?
 1) Yes
 2) No _____ 71
43. Do you claim any tax deductions for operating your day care service as a business?
 1) Yes
 2) No _____ 72
44. Do you usually provide some kind of payment receipt or record to all parents? (Any combination of cancelled checks and cash receipts or willingness of provider to provide receipts will constitute a yes.)
 1) Yes
 2) No _____ 73
45. Of the total income that you take in each week, about how much is left over after you have paid for the children's food and day care materials? (Round to nearest dollar.) _____ 74 - 76

PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DAY CARE COST STUDY

Study Director:

Robert Fritz, Department of Administration
Office of the Secretary

Study Supervisor:

Denny McGuire, Department of Administration
Office of the Secretary

Technical Advisory Committee:

Lynn Little, Office of State Budget and Management
Research Division

Ron Penny, Department of Human Resources
Office of Day Care Services

Tim Quigg, Department of Human Resources
Office of Day Care Services

Beverly Wiggins, Department of Administration
Office of Policy and Planning

Talitha Wright, Department of Administration
Office of Child Day Care Licensing

Survey Development:

Angell Beza, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences
University of North Carolina

Richard Clifford, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center
University of North Carolina

Data Collection:

Day Care Plan Consultants, Department of Administration
Office of Child Day Care Licensing

Karen Dunn
June Locklear, Registration Supervisor
Rita Roberts

Planning and Reporting Unit, Department of Human Resources
Office of Day Care Services

Chrissy Carroll
Jim Collins
Juanita Cowan
David Crisp
Carol Smith

Data Analysis:

N.C. State University, Center for Urban Affairs and
Community Services

Yevonne Brannon
Tod Powers
Connelly Simmons

Report Production/Word Processing:

Gail Williams, Department of Administration
Office of Child Day Care Licensing

